



## Open Space Committee

Date: Thurs, April 28, 2022

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Present: Ann LeRoyer, David Morgan, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Shirley Canniff, Eliza Hatch, David White, Wendy Richter, Brian Kelder, Brian McBride

Absent: Teresa DeBenedictis, Emily Nink

Guests: None

### Agenda

#### 1. Review/approve March 24, 2022 Minutes

Postponed to next meeting

#### 2. Open Space and Recreation Plan 2022-2029 Update

A. LeRoyer reviewed minor edits to the OSRP and summarized changes made during the three Open Space and Recreation Plan Review sessions held in April, 2022. Horsley Witten's formatted draft is forthcoming and will be delivered ahead of the next Open Space Committee meeting (05/26/2022).

A. LeRoyer created a list of action plan priority locations to be mapped. The major open space properties will be displayed and sites where new work is being conducted. S. Caniff offered Hurd Field, Robbins Farm Park, Buzzell Field, and Parallel Park as Recreation priorities to be included on the list.

#### 3. CPA Project Updates

a. Contracted work is still underway at Arlington Reservoir through spring.

b. Volunteer recruitment effort launched for stewardship of Wellington Park by Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA). Town Land Stewards may have a role. MyRWA is seeking an organizer. The Committee expressed concern about the end of the park trail that meets Mill Brook, which is open and poses a safety hazard. D. Morgan promised to investigate solutions.

c. CPA applications endorsed by the Open Space Committee are still waiting approval by Town Meeting (Mt. Gilboa, Cooke's Hollow, Hurd Field renovations, Robbins Farm Park playground). D. Morgan reported that Cooke's Hollow was the focus of the Town's MVP application this year, which would fund phase two of work at Cooke's Hollow—from concept through construction documents and permits. In advance of the anticipated MVP funding, the Town plans to update the hydraulic model of Mill Brook and conduct alternatives analyses, including the

impacts of changes to Cooke's Hollow. D. Morgan requested a letter of support from the Open Space Committee for the MVP application. A. LeRoyer agreed to draft a letter..

S. Canniff reported that Recreation is pursuing a plan to install Playground Communication Boards made by the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism to promote communication between people with differing abilities (e.g., with autism and other developmental delays) with their verbal, neuro-typical peers. The foundation is donating one sign to each municipality in the state. Arlington's will be installed at Summer Street Playground, which is fully ADA accessible.

S. Canniff shared that off-leash dogs are a continued concern and that the Park & Recreation Commission will issue a Town Notice on the topic reminding residents of the laws and their enforcement.

#### **4. 40B Comprehensive Permit Applications**

- a. Thorndike Place (Mugar) project on hold pending legal appeals. The developer has pulled their appeal challenging the conditions in the ZBA decision. The abutters' appeal still stands.
- b. Construction work at 1165R Mass Ave has begun.
- c. The site application for the proposed 40B development at 1021 Mass Ave has been filed. The Department of Planning and Community Development will offer comments. The Conservation Commission has hosted working sessions on the project.

#### **5. Other News/Discussion**

- a. E. Carr-Jones shared that she had not received a response from the Picture Post project managers.
- b. S. Caniff shared that Park and Recreation approved all events for Robbins Farm Park for the summer.
- c. Public Land Management Plan is progressing into its regulatory research phase. A first draft of the plan's inventory of public spaces is due after feedback has been submitted by the Public Lands Working Group.
- d. A. LeRoyer updated on the proposed redevelopment at 34 Dudley, a hearing for which took place with the Arlington Redevelopment Board. A. LeRoyer offered comments from the Open Space Committee at the recent hearing, concerned with the effect of the development on Wellington Park.
- e. D. White reported on an active beaver dam at Arlington Great Meadows.

#### **6. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

**2022 Meeting Dates** (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday except Nov and Dec) May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27, November 10, December 8